THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a)	Army	84
	Assam Rifles	11
	Border Security Force	02
	Central Industrial Security Force	02
	Central Reserve Police Force	71
	Indo-Tibetan Border Police	Nil
	Sashastra Sewa Bal	Nil
	Total:	**170**

(b) The claims of the families of Armed Forces personnel dying in action are cleared within 2-3 months except in cases where documentation is not complete or court cases have been filed. However, such cases are monitored regularly at appropriate level. Review of benefits in such matters is undertaken at periodic intervals at appropriate levels.

Collision of submarine with merchant ship in Saurashtra

2066. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to failure to detect a ship, a submarine of the Indian Navy collided with a merchant ship in January, 2008 in the Arabian sea, off the cost of Saurashtra;

(b) if so, was it a human failure or a mechanical defect; and

(c) whether such sensitive submarines are equipped with the latest, state of the art advanced technological developed instruments so as not to compromise the national security and lives of sailors and costly submarines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) On the 7th January, 2008, the Indian Navy submarine, INS Sindhughosh, collided with a merchant ship in the Arabian Sea. A Board of Enquiry has been constituted by the Indian Navy to investigate into the circumstances leading to the collision, in addition to the ongoing investigation by the Mercantile Marine Department, Mumbai.

(c) Yes, Sir, the submarines are appropriately equipped.

Proposal to upgrade and modernise IMDs

2067. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to upgrade and modernize Indian Meteorological Departments (IMDs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far will this help to convey in advance accurate forecasts especially for the farming community?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.